[Translation]

Irrigation Projects in M.P. and Rajasthan

824. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the major/medium irrigation projects of Rajasthan pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) the reasons for delay in giving clearance to these projects;

(c) whether any time bound programme has been formulated by the Union Government for their clearance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) 4 (Four) Major and 8 (Eight) Medium Irrigation projects of Rajasthan are at various stages of appraisal. Out of these, 2 (Two) Major Projects namely, Indira Gandhi Nahar Stage-I (Extension, Renovation & Modernisation) and Bisalpur Drinking Water cum Irrigation and 6 (Six) Medium Irrigation projects namely Bethali, Bandi Sendra, Sukli, Chauli, Chakan and Gararda have been found acceptable by the Technical Advisory Committee subject to certain observations. The State Government is required to comply with these observations. The State Government is required to sort out various techno-economic aspects in respect of remaining 2 major projects namely, Pipalda Lift Irrigation and Utilisation of Yamuna Water and 2 Medium projects namely, Piplad Irrigation and Olwara Lift Irrigation.

(c) and (d) The clearance of the projects depends upon the promptness with which the State Government complies with the observation of the Technical Advisory Committee and other Central Appraising Agencies.

[English]

Identity Cards to Retired Defence Civilian Employees

825. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the defence service personnel are issued "identity cards" and "record of service certificates" on their retirement but no such practice is followed in the case of civilian employees who after retirement have no proof of their having served the Government in any post and acquiring any experience;

(b) if so, the reasons for not issuing identity cards and record of Service certificates to the civilian employees, and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to issue such cards and certificates with immediate effect to help civilian employees in their resettlement after retirement and to maintain their identity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) "Identity Cards" and 'record of Service certificate" in case of retired defence service personnel are primarily intended for availment of special facilities available to them such as re-employment in Government upto normal age of retirement on civil side, medical treatment in Military Hospitals, and CSD facilities. As the retired civilian defence employees are not eligible to avail such facilities, issue of "identity cards" or "record of service certificates" to them is not considered necessary.

Road Safety Measures

826. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group on roads fixed any target for construction of freeways in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government fixed any target for strengthening of bridges on the National Highways, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps have been taken for improving road safety measures on the National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The Working Group has targeted the construction of 500 km. of expressways.

(b) It is proposed to take up reconstruction/ rehabilitation of 119 number of bridges on National Highways during 1997-98.

(c) A number of steps like widening of National Highways, reconstruction of distressed bridges, replacement of level crossings with road over/under bridges, construction of bypasses, provision of retro-reflective road signs, thermo plastic road markings, improvement of junctions, provision of parking lay-bys, provision of wayside amenities and introduction of patrolling schemes on National Highways are taken up from time to time for improving road safety on National Highways.